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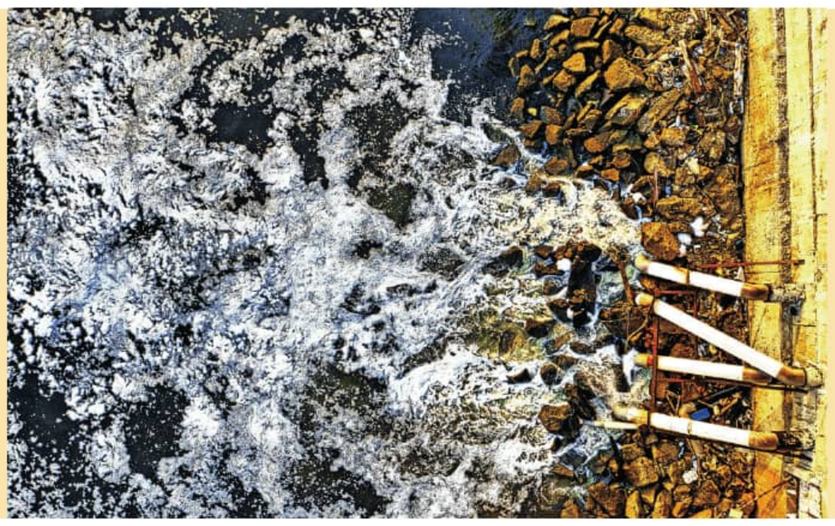
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 29 | Humidity 29% Hazy sunshine Sensex 75,273 | Nifty 23,306 | Gold 1,44,060 | Silver 2,34,177 | Dollar 93.80 | Euro 108.59 | GBP 125.35



DIRTY DEED

Six apartment complexes, one educational institution pulled up for dumping untreated sewage into Shikaripalya Lake

PAGE 4

IN COVERAGE AREA

Though 458 villages in state do not have any mobile coverage, we have raced to number 5 in country in terms of 5G reach

PAGE 6

Snakes on the walking paths and lighting breakdown for weeks cast shadow over National Military Memorial; though now lights are fixed, visitors and civic activists demand better infra for space that honours martyrs

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Security guards posted at memorial too unable to do their work effectively

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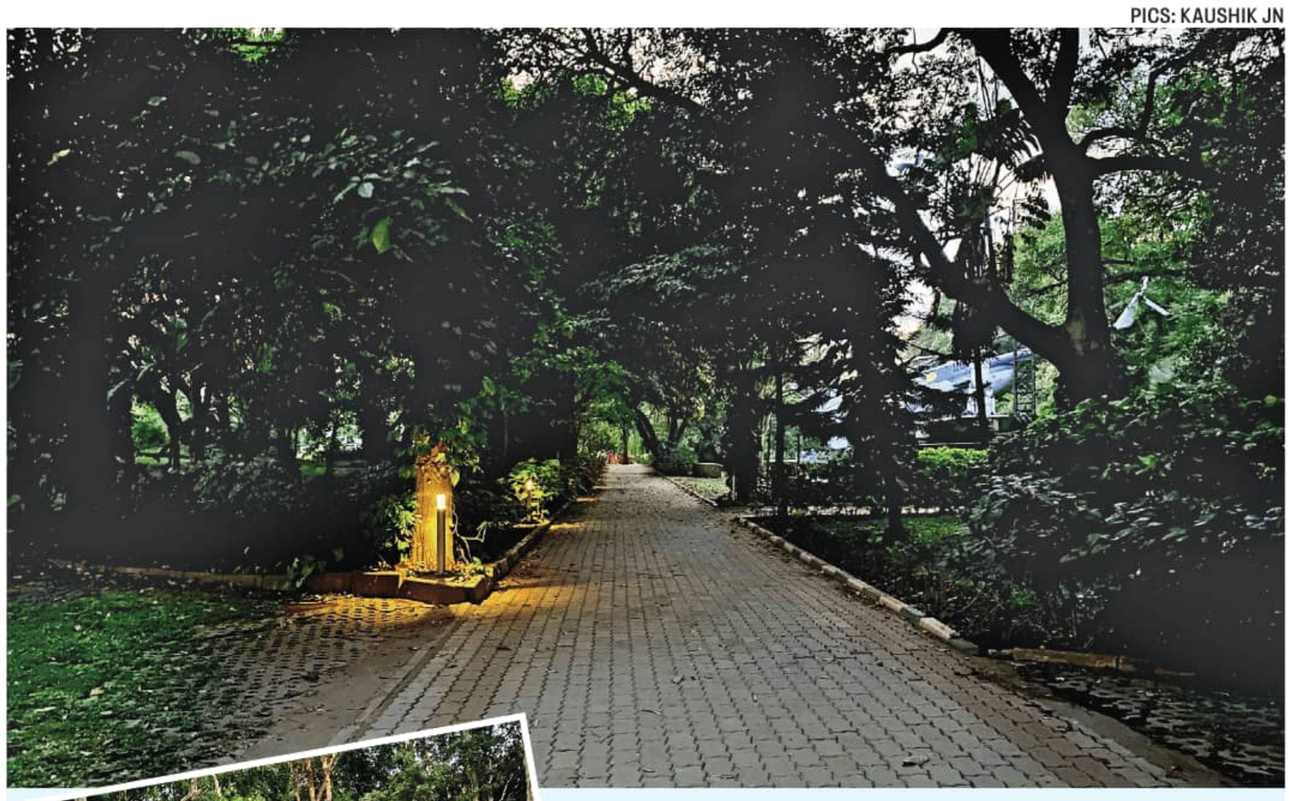
PICS: KAUSHIK JN



“The current illumination is inadequate, particularly along the pathways, making parts of the space poorly lit. Given that many visitors frequent the park at night, especially those attending the Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain show, it is important to enhance the lighting infrastructure —Vinod Jacob, urban strategist

The National Military Memorial (NMM) is a favourite destination for people across the city as it is a visual treat and a symbol of national pride. Hundreds of people visit the NMM for a walk in the mornings and evenings.

But these days after sundown, not many people want to visit due to poor lighting or no light at all. This has been going on for weeks together.

The reason is without the lights, it is difficult to spot snakes, who have made NMM their home.

The fear is so high that even security guards posted at the NMM, are uncomfortable. Many visitors have expressed concern over the poor lighting and have urged the Department of Sainik Welfare & Resettlement to fix the lighting problems as early as possible to prevent snake bite incidents here.

“I have been visiting the NMM for a walk in the evening for the last five years. In the recent past, there was no lighting at all for weeks together. Now, it seems the problem is fixed. However, I am not sure how long these lights function.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Stuck in a daze

Karnataka recording high number of fog-related accidents, fatalities over last 5 years

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Fatalities and accidents linked to fog and mist conditions on roads have shown a rise in Karnataka over recent years, according to data tabled in the Rajya Sabha recently.

The data reveals that Karnataka recorded 2,184 road accidents in 2024 attributed to fog and mist. While this marks a slight decline from 2,212 in 2023, the broader trend shows a sharp rise over the past few years, with accidents peaking at 2,578 in 2022. In 2020, the state had reported 1,319 such accidents. This could be attributed to a steep increase in traffic volumes and highway usage.

In terms of fatalities, 649 people lost their lives in fog and mist-related road accidents in Karnataka in 2024. This too is a marginal decline from 677 deaths reported in 2023, but there is an upward trend over the past five years.

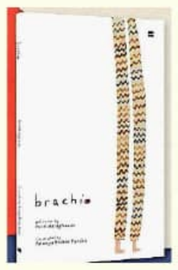
In 2020, the state recorded 375 such deaths. This number surged to 757 in 2022, before easing slightly over the next two years. Despite the stabilisation, fatalities remain considerably higher than earlier levels, indicating that risks linked to poor visibility on roads can be a serious concern.

Nationally, the data points to a similar trajectory. Across India, fog and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Story comes to life



Atta Galatta is presenting an interactive dramatic reading by Venkataraghavan, where the author brings his story to life by performing it as a lively play. The story follows Brachio, a very tall beach dweller who loves helping people, but must confront what happens when the villagers no longer need him. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 29, 1.30 pm**

02 Traditional tunes

The Nadathur Foundation is organising the 5th edition of Nada Sambhrama, a concert series dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich tradition of Indian classical music. This edition represents an enchanting evening of Hindustani music featuring Vidhushi Shubha Mudgal. **Where: Mangala Mandapa Auditorium, NMKRV Campus; When: March 28, 6.30 pm**

03 Groovy night

SOCIAL celebrates the Oddvision 2nd Year Anniversary, blending techno-driven beats, layered rhythms, and intricate electronic textures, with flowing patterns defining the dynamic, immersive atmosphere. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: March 27, 8 pm**

04 Picture perfect

Sublime Galleria presents Illumination, an evocative exhibition of Bhaskar Gauribidanur's black and white and abstract photography that explores light, shadow, emotion, and timeless expression. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: Until April 5**

05 Literary corner

Atta Galatta is bringing a sports writing workshop with a squad of aspiring and seasoned writers for a journey into the high-stakes world of sports journalism and storytelling. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 28, 11 am**

'We must reflect and learn anew how to stand together'

Noted Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq talks about sisterhood, patriarchy, war and more

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Banu Mushtaq was felicitated after the event held at Souharda Hall near Subbaiah Circle, on Wednesday

In the words of noted Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq, "For us, war is not just about the price of gas; it is the agonising reality of a five-year-old child being shot—an atrocity so grim that it would melt even a heart turned to stone." She said these words during a conversation held at Souharda Hall near Subbaiah Circle. The celebrated author, who recently brought international recognition to Kannada literature by winning the Booker Prize, engaged in a wide-ranging conversation on literature, identity, resistance, and the socio-political climate of the present.

The event was jointly organised by the Naaveddu Nilladiddare-Karnataka and the Karnataka Lekhakiyara Sangha. The discussion was moderated by Dr R Sunandamma, president of the writers' association, along with Anita Cheria, a public intellectual associated with the Naaveddu Nilladiddare platform. Their questions drew both from Mushtaq's literary work and the concerns of an engaged and diverse audience.

On sisterhood & solidarity

Responding to observations about the strong sense of sisterhood in her stories, Mushtaq reflected on the organic nature of women's solidarity, "Sisterhood is a concept very dear to me. It exists naturally within us, though it often becomes blurred under the various pressures of the world. I try to show through my stories how it springs back to life when the moment demands." She illustrated this through her story Karinaagaragalu (Black Cobras), where a woman ostracised for bearing only daughters finds strength in collective grief. "Even the wife of the Mutawalli — a man who staunchly upholds patriarchal dictates — defies his orders to serve food to those gathered in mourning. This sisterhood among ordinary women, forged in small but profound ways, is truly beautiful," Mushtaq said.

On narrative challenges and identity

Addressing the evolution of literary spaces, Mushtaq spoke candidly about the resistance she faced while writing about working-class lives and Muslim identities in Kannada literature —"The momentum of the movements that existed when I started is missing today. The challenges now are greater." She recalled how such writing was once dismissed, "Our writings were mocked as 'kitchen literature' or 'Sabara Sahitya'. Women's writing was rarely taken seriously."

Caught between cultural representations, she described a recurring dilemma, "I often asked myself: should I write about 'Kamala-Basava' or 'Razia-Abdulla'? It was the elders of the Bandaya movement who stood by me." While acknowledging the presence of newer platforms today, she emphasised the need for renewed solidarity, "We must reflect and learn anew how to stand together and hold each other's hands."

On state-sponsored hate and youth

Mushtaq expressed deep concern over rising social divisions, particularly among young people, "This is not merely an 'attraction' to hate; it is a deliberate, state-sponsored effort to fill the hearts of the youth with malice." She warned against the erosion of shared humanity, "It is alarming that we have become so prejudiced that we look with suspicion at a man sitting next to us simply because of how he dresses or appears."

On patriarchy and resistance

Using a striking metaphor, she examined how patriarchal systems sustain themselves, "In prisons, life-term convicts are often appointed to oversee others... Similarly, the patriarchal system has stationed women themselves as guards of patriarchy." Rejecting divisive narratives, she asserted, "The idea that 'a woman is a woman's worst enemy' is a lie; it is patriarchal values that are the real enemy."

Responding to questions on the framing of Muslim women in global discourse, Mushtaq highlighted the historical patterns of control over women's agency. "When knowledge held by women became profitable, it was taken away from them, and they were branded as witches."

She linked this to present-day struggles,"We must reclaim our power. We must stop war and the exploitation carried out in its name." Critiquing contemporary attitudes, she added, "Even as tragedies unfold, we see remarks like 'a husband is not an ATM.' This shows how much work still lies ahead."

The session concluded with a reading of her poem Soojiya Kannu (The Eye of the Needle), leaving the audience with a lingering reflection, "Accountability means preventing the rust... holding back time for a moment."

K'taka makes minimum 3 years govt service mandatory for PG doctors

In a major move to address the shortage of specialist doctors in government hospitals, the Karnataka government has made it mandatory for all postgraduate (PG) medical degree and diploma holders admitted under the government quota, including the All India Quota, to serve in government institutions for a minimum of three years. The order, issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department, aims to strengthen public healthcare services by ensuring the availability of qualified specialists across the state.

Candidates who fail to comply with this mandatory service requirement will face heavy penalties, with fines set at Rs 50 lakh for PG degree holders and Rs 25 lakh for diploma holders, as per existing rules. Appointments will be made on a contract basis through counselling based on merit lists prepared by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, with postings depending on available vacancies. While the first year of service will be governed by the Karnataka Compulsory Service Act, 2012 with applicable pay, the remaining two years will follow NHM or medical education department contract norms. Candidates who have already completed one year of compulsory service need to serve only the remaining two years. The government has directed strict implementation of the order to ensure compliance and improve healthcare delivery. **— BMB**

RCB pays tribute to fans lost in stampede, reserves 11 seats at Chinnaswamy Stadium

In a heartfelt gesture, Royal Challengers Bengaluru has decided to honour the 11 fans who lost their lives in a tragic stampede during the team's IPL victory celebrations by permanently reserving 11 seats at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. The tribute will extend beyond IPL matches, with the reserved seats being maintained during international fixtures as well, ensuring that the memory of the fans remains an enduring part of the stadium.

The incident occurred in 2025 when massive crowds gathered to celebrate RCB's maiden IPL title win after 18 years, leading to a deadly stampede near the stadium. As a mark of respect, players will also wear jersey number 11 during practice sessions and sport black armbands. According to team CEO Rajesh Menon, the gesture reflects the team's gratitude and emotional bond with its supporters.

Following the tragedy, extensive safety upgrades have been implemented at the stadium, including improved crowd management systems, AI-based monitoring, multiple baggage scanners and a central command centre, with an investment of around Rs 7 crore. New standard operating procedures have been introduced in coordination with the Board of Control for Cricket in India and Karnataka State Cricket Association, making the state body the primary organiser while ensuring strict compliance with safety norms. RCB will play five of its seven home matches in Bengaluru, with the remaining games scheduled in Raipur. Ticket sales for the opening match went live online and were sold out within minutes, leaving many fans disappointed and raising concerns over availability. Authorities have assured tighter surveillance, with real-time CCTV monitoring linked directly to the Commissioner's office to prevent any incidents. **— BMB**

A memorial plaque dedicated to stampede victims was unveiled on March 25 at M Chinnaswamy Stadium

10 stolen two-wheelers recovered

Madiwala Police Station seized 10 stolen two-wheelers worth Rs 6.25 lakh and arrested one accused. The case began with a complaint on March 2 from a Bellandur resident, who reported their vehicle stolen after parking it near Silk Board Metro Station on February 28. Following the FIR, police pursued multiple leads and, on March 16, arrested a suspect near Martin Nagar Main Road, 8th Cross, recovering the stolen vehicle.

During investigation, the accused disclosed that he had parked several two-wheelers at different locations—five in an open area near Silk Board Dargah and four close to KSRP Community Hall on Hosur Road, Silk Board. On March 17, police recovered the vehicles, valued at Rs 6.25 lakh. **–BMB**

Juvenile held in bag snatching case

A Kalyan Nagar resident filed a theft complaint with Banaswadi Police Station on March 19 after a bag containing gold ornaments and a mobile phone was snatched near Kempegowda International Airport. Acting on credible information, police apprehended a suspect on March 23. Investigations revealed the accused to be a juvenile in conflict with the law, and the case was referred to Child Welfare authorities for interrogation. During interrogation, the juvenile confessed to the theft and admitted involvement in several robberies across the city. Based on this information, police on March 23 recovered two motorcycles used in the crime along with 25.35 grams of gold ornaments, a watch, and other items from the stolen bag, valued at Rs 15 lakh. **–BMB**

Man booked for abusive online posts

A case has been registered by the Kempegowda International Airport Police against a man for allegedly posting derogatory and misleading content against the Bengaluru City Police on social media.

According to officials, the accused, identified as Utkarsh Gautam, had reportedly posted abusive remarks on social media platforms, tagging the Mumbai Police and making derogatory statements against Bengaluru Police, including allegations that he was detained without reason. The incident came to light on March 23 during routine social media monitoring. Based on these posts, an FIR has been registered, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Cop under probe for harassment

A police inspector attached to the Konanakunte Police Station has come under scrutiny following allegations of sexual harassment made by a 47-year-old woman rowdy sheeter. City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has ordered a preliminary inquiry into the complaint.

The complainant, Yashaswini Gowda, submitted a petition at the Commissioner's office on Wednesday, accusing Inspector Papanna of repeated harassment. She alleged that he sent inappropriate messages, made verbal advances, and used suggestive language while asking her to meet him in private. "Further action will be based on the findings of the report," officials said. **–BMB**

Woman attacked in family dispute

A 59-year-old woman was brutally assaulted at her residence in Ambedkar Nagar under the Adugodi Police Station limits on Wednesday morning, in a case linked to an ongoing family dispute.

The victim, Maheshwari, was allegedly attacked by her younger brother Manigandan, his son Kiran, and a group of their associates. According to police, the incident stems from marital discord between Maheshwari's granddaughter and Kiran, who are married. Following differences, the granddaughter had left her husband's home and was staying with Maheshwari.

Police said Maheshwari had intervened in the matter and reportedly reprimanded Manigandan over the dispute, which angered him. On Tuesday, Manigandan, along with Kiran and a few others, allegedly barged into Maheshwari's house in an attempt to forcibly take the granddaughter back.

When Maheshwari resisted, the accused allegedly attacked her using a knife and an iron rod, reportedly with an intention to kill. After the assault, they fled the scene, taking the granddaughter with them. Maheshwari was rushed to St John's Hospital, where doctors stated that she is now out of danger.

A case of attempt to murder and domestic violence has been registered. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Police probe attack on RTI activist's vehicle

An RTI activist and the President of Karnataka RTI Workers Seva Samithi took to X to share that he narrowly escaped what he described as an attempt on his life when his car was attacked around 3.40 am on 1st Main Road, Benhajjanahalli, on March 25, when he was trying to pass through an underpass. In his post, the activist stated that the damage to the vehicle appeared consistent with a 0.2 mm bullet or air gun pellet. Drawing on his rifle training experience, he ruled out stone impact. He suspected the incident could be linked to a possible robbery, which he noted is common in the area. As per the police, an FIR will be lodged, and officials from Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station have confirmed that they are already investigating the matter. **–BMB**

Auto driver arrested in fatal hit-and-run case

Kengeri police have solved a case involving a woman's body, found dumped in a garbage heap behind a bus stop in West Bengaluru, tracing it to a fatal hit-and-run involving an autorickshaw, exposing a desperate attempt to cover up the crime.

The accused, identified as Basavegowda (50), an autorickshaw driver from Laggere, has been arrested. According to police, the deceased, Kempamma (50), had arrived near Kengeri Upanagara around 12.30 am on Monday after travelling by train from her hometown in Mandya district. While she was on the road, Basavegowda allegedly knocked her down with his autorickshaw. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

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Pollution shocker: Apartments caught dumping sewage into lake

Pollution board cracks down on apartments lacking sewage treatment plants as untreated waste continues entering Shikaripalya Lake, worsening environmental and public health concerns

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Environmental audits ordered for buildings around Shikaripalya Lake catchment

Six apartment complexes and an educational institution in Anekal have recently received show-cause notices from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for polluting Shikaripalya Lake in the area.

The apartments and the institution include Sarovar Apartment, Shree Nandana Elite Apartment Residents Welfare Association, Sree Balaji Nest Apartment, Thirumala Residency Apartment Residents, Happy Home Vivasvan Resident Association, Happy Home 2, and Zia Academy.

According to the state pollution control board, none of the apartments and the institute have sewage treatment plants, and they have been discharging domestic sewage that is entering the water body.

The Board has also acknowledged that the prime reason for pollution of Shikaripalya Lake is sewage or sullage flowing in the storm water drains entering the said lake, rapid and large-scale urbanisation, change in land use pattern, absence of Underground Drainage (UGD) system, and direct discharges from Gram Panchayath limits leading to a substantial quantity of sewage flowing in the water body.

Earlier, KSPCB had issued notices to some of these apartments with more than 20 flats to apply for consent of the Board and to install sewage treatment plants. However, a routine inspection of the area in January showed that the apartments had not complied, and they continued to discharge sewage and had failed to install an STP.

It is mandatory for apartments in Karnataka with more than 20 units or a total built-up area of more than 2,000 square meters to install STPs and obtain consent from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Educational institutions with or without hostel facilities having a total built-up area of 5,000 square meters are also supposed to install STP.

According to the state pollution control board, none of the apartments and the institute have sewage treatment plants, and they have been discharging domestic sewage that is entering the water body.

"Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Sections 25 or 26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, is liable for imprisonment for a term not less than one year and six months and may extend up to six years and with fine," KSPCB has noted in the show-cause notices served to these establishments. Shikaripalya Lake, spread across 18 acres 39 guntas, came into focus in 2022 when the National Green Tribunal took suo motu cognisance based on residents' complaints over pollution and encroachment. Following this, NGT last year directed KSPCB to submit an independent report and conduct environmental audits of all buildings in the lake's catchment area to verify installation of sewage treatment plants and ensure proper utilisation of treated sewage within premises.

Unpaid dues trigger citywide garbage collection disruption

Bengaluru's solid waste management system faced disruption over the past few days as several contractors suspended garbage collection and transportation, citing non-payment of bills for the last six months and alleged exploitation of labourers. The stoppage resulted in heaps of waste piling up in residential areas and "black spots" emerging across the city, raising concerns among residents about sanitation and public health.

In response, officials from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) have convened meetings to address the concerns. Following FIRs filed under the ESMA Act against 35 contractors on Monday, authorities are holding discussions with contractors from all constituencies on March 26 and 27 to allow grievances to be aired. After constituency-level consultations, senior officials will meet representatives from the contractors' association to find solutions. CEO of BSWML, Kari Gowda, confirmed that assistant general managers will invite contractor representatives to these sessions, and COO orders have been issued to ensure participation. The first round of meetings on March 26 will cover contractors from constituencies including Malleswaram, Mahalakshmi Layout, Rajajinagar, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Govindarajanagar, Vijayanagar, Yeshwanthpur, Basavanagudi, Dasarahalli, Padmanabhanagar, K R Puram, and Mahadevapura.

Contractors allege that labourers engaged in garbage collection face serious health risks and claim that ESMA regulations have been violated. SN Balsubramaniam, Secretary of the Bengaluru Waste Contractors Association, said letters have been sent to authorities demanding action. — BMB

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Parimala W/o Veeranna residing at Aluru village, Dasanapura hobli, Bangalore north taluk, stating that, the original sale deed of **Site No.44, Khata No. 1378/2/2/44 (document No. DSP-1-02699-2014-15, PID no.150200200500320274)** was lost at Nelamangala bus stand, while making xerox on **22.03.2026**. In this regard, I have given a complaint **(LR No.2120385/2026)** to Bangalore rural police on **23.03.2026**. Anybody finds the same, please contact the above address or mobile **9632176308.**

CBD crackdown: Towing returns to Bengaluru roads

Bengaluru Traffic Police, in coordination with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), are set to implement towing operations in the Central Business District (CBD), covering key areas like MG Road and the surroundings of Vidhana Soudha. Vehicles parked in no-parking zones will be towed and owners fined as part of stricter traffic management measures. The pilot operation will begin within the next couple of days in the central and western municipal limits. According to Joint Commissioner of Traffic, Karthik Reddy, two towing vehicles have been allocated by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation and one by the Western Corporation. All vehicles violating no-parking rules will first receive a public announcement before being towed. Fines include ₹650 for two-wheelers and ₹1,000 for cars, collected by the respective municipal authorities. Police and towing staff, including assistant sub-inspectors, will oversee operations to ensure compliance and courteous handling of motorists, following detailed training and operational guidelines across all identified CBD zones. — BMB

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Traffic chaos

JP Nagar

Around 10 oversized speed breakers within a 500-metre stretch in JP Nagar 5th Phase are creating traffic congestion, commuter discomfort, and raising safety concerns for residents and motorists.

Flooded road

Ejipura

Cauvery water is leaking on Ejipura Main Road, opposite a bakery, causing inconvenience to daily commuters and passing vehicle.

IMPACT: Issue resolved

Nayandahalli

Following coverage in this column, BWSSB promptly resolved the water leakage problem at Nayandahalli, restoring normalcy for commuters and residents.

HC orders strict age checks at pubs, breweries statewide

After a minor's death, court warns liquor-serving establishments to enforce mandatory age verification and face legal consequences for allowing underage entry or alcohol access

The Karnataka HC has directed pubs, breweries and other establishments serving liquor to adopt stringent age-verification measures to prevent minors from accessing alcohol. The direction was issued by Justice M Nagaprasanna while dismissing a petition filed by a partner of a brewery seeking to quash criminal proceedings initiated against him in a case involving a minor.

The case stems from the death of a 15-year-old student who had allegedly consumed alcohol after visiting a brewery with classmates following a school event, raising serious concerns over how minors were allowed entry into such premises. Declining to interfere with the proceedings, the Court emphasised that licence holders bear a clear responsibility to ensure that underage persons are neither granted entry nor served alcohol.

In its order, the Court observed that, "Breweries and similar establishments must initiate rigorous age verification protocols at the threshold of entry," adding that additional checks must be carried out when individuals who appear young attempt to purchase alcohol. It further underscored that such verification cannot be treated casually, stating, "Age verification cannot be a perfunctory ritual it must be a living practice" backed by proper documentation and cautionary measures.

The Court also made it clear that establishments cannot escape liability if minors gain access to alcohol on their premises, noting that, "The management cannot show their hands off in indifference and would be held accountable for any lapses."

Highlighting the broader principle involved, the Court remarked, "The protection of youth is not merely a statutory mandate, it is a moral imperative." The judgment reiterates that licence holders must exercise vigilance, ensuring not only that alcohol is not served to minors but also that minors are not present in spaces where liquor is sold or consumed, thereby reinforcing stricter compliance with legal and regulatory safeguards.

Assess Conocarpus before plantation drives

The Karnataka High Court has instructed civic authorities in Bengaluru to evaluate the possible environmental and health implications of planting Conocarpus trees before proceeding with any further plantation drives. The direction came while the court disposed of a public interest litigation that sought the removal of these trees from various parts of the city.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha refused to order the immediate removal of the existing trees and said the decision falls within the jurisdiction of the government and civic authorities. The bench, however, said officials must not ignore the concerns raised in the petition, especially while planning future plantation drives in the city.

The petition stated that civic agencies planted a large number of Conocarpus trees across Bengaluru even though urban forestry plans give priority to native species. It also questioned whether the authorities followed approved guidelines during recent plantation campaigns.

During the hearing, the petitioner argued that the species could cause environmental and health problems. The plea said the trees release pollen that may trigger allergies, asthma and other respiratory issues in some people. It also pointed out that the roots grow aggressively and may damage underground drainage lines, water pipelines and communication cables.

The petitioner noted some states resticted Conocarpus plantation due to similar concern.

—BMB

Tree felling: BMRCL goes to court

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has approached the Karnataka High Court seeking permission to fell trees for the proposed metro corridor between JP Nagar 4th Phase and Mysuru Road. The request came through an interim application in an ongoing public interest litigation filed in 2018 by the Bangalore Environment Trust and environmentalist Dattatraya Devare on preservation of Bengaluru's tree cover.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha directed State authorities to compile reports showing compliance with earlier court directions and to consult the petitioners. The matter will be heard next on April 10.

BMRCL, the fifth respondent, sought approval to act on an office memorandum of the Tree Expert Committee permitting felling along the metro alignment. Its counsel said a public notice invited objections, forest officials conducted field inspections, and reports are on record. The project area has 2,184 trees, some requiring felling or translocation, with all trees numbered and receptor sites identified.

Petitioners opposed the plea, alleging non-compliance, especially on compensatory afforestation, and said safeguards were ignored. The Bench said adequate "checks and balances" must exist before granting permission.

—BMB

ADVERTORIAL

Chowman Expands Bangalore Footprint with New Outlet in Rajajinagar

Strengthening its mission to democratise fine dining Chinese cuisine across the country, Chowman, one of India's most loved Chinese restaurant chains, has launched its 57th outlet in Bangalore at Rajajinagar amongst its group of brands. With this addition, the brand continues to solidify its presence in one of its most important markets outside Kolkata with —marking yet another milestone in its steady national expansion.

Bangalore's journey with Chowman has been both emotional and strategic. As the first city the brand expanded beyond its home base, it has grown into one of Chowman's most high-performing markets. Today, with nine outlets spread across key locations including Indiranagar, Koramangala, Bellandur, Arekere, Sahakarnagar, Marathahalli, Kalyan Nagar and Electronic City, the Rajajinagar launch reflects a deeper penetration into neighbourhood-driven growth.

Located in a well-established residential hub, the Rajajinagar outlet caters to a diverse demographic. The space has been designed to offer a comfortable yet contemporary dining experience, making it equally suitable for family gatherings and casual dining for younger audiences.

At the core of Chowman's expansion lies a strong operational backbone. The brand runs a centralised noodles manufacturing facility, ensuring that every plate served across cities maintains consistency in texture and quality. Additionally, its in-house sauce and centralised noodle production allows tight control over flavour profiles and authenticity—key to delivering a uniform dining experience across all outlets.

Technology continues to play a defining role in Chowman's growth story. Its proprietary Chowman App, with over 5 lakh downloads and 4 lakh active users, offers a seamless ordering experience with real-time tracking, exclusive pricing, and an integrated customer feedback system. Backed by one of the largest in-house delivery fleets in the Chinese cuisine segment, the brand ensures speed, quality control, and reliability across deliveries. Today with over 250 delivery fleet of it's own, Chowman operates one of the largest delivery fleets in India.

Customer feedback remains central to Chowman's evolution. In a city like Bangalore—where diners are vocal, experimental, and digitally active—the brand continuously adapts its offerings and service standards based on real-time insights and preferences.

Speaking on the expansion, Debaditya Chaudhury, Managing Director of Chowman, said, "Bangalore has always been a defining market for us. It challenged us, helped us evolve, and ultimately embraced us. With Rajajinagar, we are bringing the Chowman experience closer to a neighbourhood that beautifully balances tradition with aspiration."

The launch also aligns with Chowman's larger southern expansion strategy. Following its recent entry into Chennai as its sixth metro city, the brand is now focused on strengthening its presence across South India while exploring new markets nationwide.

With an ambitious roadmap to cross 100 outlets in the coming years entering new landmarks and tier 2 like Pune, Chennai, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Nagpur Bhuvaneshwar and many others, Chowman continues to blend operational excellence with accessible fine dining—serving not just food, but a consistent, trusted experience across India.

— BMB

Rural network gaps remain despite Karnataka's rapid 5G expansion

Many uncovered villages lie in hilly, remote regions where installing mobile towers is costly and logistically difficult for telecom providers

Karnataka has expanded 4G and 5G rapidly, but uneven distribution leaves several remote villages disconnected. Experts warn that without focused rural investment; digital growth may widen the gap between urban and interior regions

458 villages without mobile coverage, but Karnataka has brought 5G services to 19,633 villages already

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

While Karnataka has made significant strides in digital connectivity, the state still trails some of its peers in ensuring uniform mobile network access across rural areas. According to the latest data as of February 28, 2026, Karnataka has 29,818 villages, of which 29,360 villages are covered by mobile networks, leaving 458 villages without any mobile coverage, as per the data presented in Parliament recently.

When it comes to 5G, Karnataka has brought services to 19,633 villages, placing it fifth nationally in absolute numbers, behind Uttar Pradesh (78,542), West Bengal (31,007), Maharashtra (30,662), and Madhya Pradesh (28,030). In percentage terms, about 66% of villages in Karnataka enjoy 5G connectivity, which is above the national average but still leaves over 10,000 villages dependent on slower networks.

Breaking down the coverage further, 28,604 villages have 2G access, 991 villages have 3G, and 29,239 villages enjoy 4G, highlighting that while Karnataka has embraced next-generation technology, the distribution of services remains uneven. Comparatively, smaller states like Kerala and Goa have nearly complete 5G coverage across fewer villages, but large states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh still dominate in absolute numbers due to their higher rural populations.

Analysts point out that the remaining uncovered villages are often in remote or hilly regions, where infrastructure challenges make connectivity expensive and difficult. "While Karnataka has been aggressive in deploying 5G, the state must focus on bridging the last-mile gap to avoid leaving its rural population digitally behind," said Dr Ramesh Kumar, a telecom policy expert.

The state has also seen high 4G penetration, which ensures most villages can access mobile internet even if 5G is not yet available. However, villages relying solely on 2G or 3G remain at a disadvantage, particularly in sectors like education, healthcare, and digital services, where high-speed internet is essential.

From a national perspective, Karnataka's performance remains commendable but highlights the persistent urban-rural divide in digital infrastructure. While metros like Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Hubballi enjoy robust 5G coverage, districts in northern and forested regions continue to lag behind. Experts suggest that targeted investment in tower installation and public-private partnerships could help accelerate universal 5G access.

With the government emphasising digital inclusion under programmes like BharatNet and the Smart Village initiative, Karnataka's telecom authorities face the dual challenge of expanding coverage and maintaining service quality. The coming years will be crucial in determining whether the state can move from a mid-tier performer to a national leader in rural connectivity.

Steep rise in traffic volumes, highway usage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mist-related accidents rose from 27,679 in 2020 to 33,955 in 2024, while deaths increased from 12,511 to 15,115 over the same period. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh had high numbers of fatalities.

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari pointed out that the 'Safety Awareness' measures highlight steps to alert National Highway users of the reduced visibility conditions. These measures include use of Variable Message Signs (VMS) or electronic signages to display 'Foggy Weather Alerts' and speed limits, use of Public Address System warning commuters in foggy areas, use of electronic billboards, radio, and social media for public service announcements as well as installation of reflective tapes on vehicles to enhance visibility. In addition, NHAI field offices have been directed to undertake night-time highway inspection on a weekly basis to assess visibility on National Highways and identify locations for installing additional provisions as required. Also, Highway Patrol vehicles are stationed near dense foggy stretches, carrying blinking batons for guiding traffic. Also, use of reflective jackets by officials and workers during highway activities has been mandated.

NHAI also urged commuters to follow safe driving techniques during foggy conditions such as following lane driving and maintaining safe distance from the vehicle ahead, driving at the speed of 30km/hr or less to ensure adequate visibility for stopping the vehicle safely, driving vehicles with head/back light blinking, not park vehicles on highways but only at designated locations such as truck lay bays and wayside amenities, drive carefully near construction sites and diversions, install reflective tapes on commercial vehicles in full width of the vehicle which includes white tape on front and red colored tape at the rear of the vehicle.

Dr. Gautham M Sukumar, Professor - Department of Epidemiology, Centre for Public Health, Head- WHO Collaborating Center for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, NIMHANS, suggested some measures for Karnataka to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents during foggy conditions. "Police are generally aware of stretches that experience foggy conditions, and this is where strict speed enforcement needs to be prioritised. Lane discipline is equally important, so maintaining adequate distance between vehicles is critical. Lack of proper spacing significantly increases the risk of accidents in low-visibility conditions. The government can also play a proactive role by issuing timely alerts. Warning systems near toll booths, along with notifications about fog and mist conditions ahead, can help drivers reduce speed. In addition, alerts through social media and SMS can further improve awareness. Northern states report higher numbers of accidents and fatalities during foggy conditions compared to southern regions, but it is essential for all drivers to remain cautious," Dr Sukumar said.

Dim lights, big city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I am also worried about the snake menace here," said B Shivakumar, a resident of Madhavanagar.

Expressing a similar opinion, Meera Manoj, a homemaker from Vasantanagar, said she has seen snakes slithering on the walking path. "There were no lights for a few days. Now, the authorities have fixed the problem. I was told that security guards found a snake in the electrical room and could not switch on lights," said Meera Manoj. A woman brought a torch light with her. "It is difficult to walk on the pathway due to lack of proper lighting. I have been carrying the torch light whenever I visit the NMM in the evening for a walk," she said.

Appreciating the noticeable improvement in the maintenance of the National Military Memorial, Vinod Jacob, an urban strategist, said that there is a clear need to strengthen the lighting in the evenings. "The current illumination is inadequate, particularly along the pathways, making parts of the space poorly lit. Given that many visitors frequent the park at night, especially those attending the Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain show, it is important to enhance the lighting infrastructure. Well-lit pathways and properly illuminated artefacts will not only improve visibility but also ensure a safer and more welcoming experience for all," said Vinod Jacob.

Stating that civic-minded citizens who have slogged to get the National Military Memorial are just deeply saddened by the lethargy and disinterest shown for our martyrs, Priya-Chetty Rajagopal, an active citizen and founder of Heritage Beku, said that this has been an issue for over eight months and repeated reminders have done nothing. "The issues are: the question of safety with a dark park, creating all sorts of unnecessary elements and possibly criminal activity and the second aspect is with reference to our beloved martyrs who do not deserve to have a dark park and not even the benefit of a single light after such a wonderful monument has been set up in their memory," said Chetty-Rajagopal.

She said that the officials need to act on the tasks they are entrusted to do and respect the memory of our martyrs rather than leaning on or dismissing citizens who care about our community and the Memorial. "Why cover our Martyrs in darkness, rather than shine the light on their sacrifice? And why impact the safety of the community around and walkers? It's a crime waiting to happen in that dark area and what a shame that would be," she said.

MS Lokaksha, Joint Director, Department of Sainik Welfare & Resettlement, said that he had already instructed the engineer to fix the lighting problem. "As of now, the lighting issues have been fixed and the remaining developmental works will be taken up soon," he said.

WAR UPDATES

Iran shrugs off US ceasefire proposal

Iran has received an American plan to pause the war in the Middle East, officials said yesterday — a proposal sent even as Washington deploys paratroopers and more Marines to the region.

Tehran did not confirm receiving the plan and publicly dismissed the diplomatic effort while launching more attacks on Israel and Gulf Arab countries, including an assault that sparked a huge fire at Kuwait International Airport. Iran also continued to come under attack.

Two officials from Pakistan, which delivered the plan to Iran, described the 15-point proposal broadly, saying it addressed sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear program, limits on missiles and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped. An Egyptian official involved in the mediation efforts said the proposal also includes restrictions on Iran's support for armed groups.

Some of those points were nonstarters in negotiations before the war: Iran has insisted it won't discuss its ballistic missile program or its support of regional militias, which it views as key to its security. Iran's attacks on regional energy infrastructure along with its restrictions on the strait have sent oil prices skyrocketing and sparked fears of a global energy crisis. **–AP**

'More ships are coming through Strait of Hormuz'

The Government on Wednesday assured opposition parties that more ships are coming through the Strait of Hormuz and there is no cause for concern. At an all-party meeting on the West Asia crisis, the Government assured opposition leaders that India remains on top of geopolitics and has adequate energy security, while also explaining how the ongoing situation could impact the country and the steps being taken to manage the fallout. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government responded comprehensively to queries and answered all questions. He added that members sought details of gas and petroleum supply through the Strait of Hormuz and were satisfied that India secured four ships already. "All the opposition colleagues have said that in this hour of crisis, whatever decision the government takes, will be supported unitedly by everyone." **–IANS**

No fuel shortage, government clarifies

Amid reports of people queuing at petrol pumps with bottles and cans, the Government has clarified that there is no shortage of petrol or diesel and that adequate stocks are available across the country. The rush at fuel stations has been attributed to false rumours of an impending shortage, prompting authorities to urge citizens not to panic or engage in unnecessary hoarding.

In a press note, Nagaraj BE, Under Secretary to Government, Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology Department, stated that fuel will be supplied strictly into vehicle tanks, and petrol pumps have been directed not to dispense fuel in bottles, cans, or other containers. He also warned that storing or transporting fuel in unauthorised containers is illegal and poses serious safety risks. The Government assured that the fuel supply chain remains stable and there is no cause for concern. **–AP**

SOCIALTATTLE

defective pikachu⁷
@kishi_asf
X.com
the place where MG Road Metro Station stands today used to house Plaza Theatre which was started in 1936 and used to screen Hollywood movies. it was shut down in 2005, sold to somebody who wanted to build a mall but it never happened as the metro station was built in the premises! OG Bangaloreans loved this place growing up.
PLAZA

THAT WENT VIRAL

@kishi_asf takes a nostalgic look at Bengaluru's lost landmark, where Plaza Theatre once stood before making way for today's MG Road Metro Station.

DP SATISH
@dp_satish
X.com
Bengaluru's first proper vegetarian hotel (eatery/restaurant) was opened in 1898 by Avani Narasinga Rao at Doddapete - Chickkapete junction, according to the late writer, scholar DV Gundappa. Hotel owner was from Mulbagilu. Mulabagilu hotel is not a new trend, actually the pioneers!

@dp_satish writes about Bengaluru's food history traced back to 1898, reminding us that vegetarian eateries have deep-rooted origins in the city.

Post
Aditya Saha
@Adityakrsaha
X.com
What's the point of opening the RCB ticket sale when there are literally no seats available for fans to book??
I logged in right at 4 pm and the sale started at 4:01 PM, but this is what I see.
This always happens, man and I'm seriously tired of this.

@Adityakrsaha talks about frustration among fans as RCB ticket sales open with virtually no seats available, raising concerns over booking transparency.

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM NO. URC-2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1.Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, that M/s PRANITH HOLDINGS, a partnership firm having its principal place of business at No. 70/7, Prizm Greystone, First Floor, Unit No 105, Millers Road, Bengaluru - 560052, may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares as FAIRLARK PRANITH HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED (hereafter referred to as the "Company") or such other name as approved by the Registrar of Companies / Central Registration Centre (CRC).

2.The principal objects of the Company are as follows: - Developing Commercial Complex, Villas, Vilaments, Row houses, Town houses, Apartments, condominiums, Hotels, Guest Houses, Malls, IT Buildings, Plot developments, layouts etc., and to do all other allied businesses incidental to the main business.

3.A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed Company may be inspected at the office at No. 70/7, Prizm Greystone, First Floor, Unit No 105, Millers Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

4.Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No.6,7,8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon – 122 050, Haryana, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company at its proposed registered office at No. 70/7, Prizm Greystone, First Floor, Unit No 105, Millers Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

Sd/-
1) N Madhava Raju
2) N Keshava Raju
(Name of the Applicants)
Date: 25-03-2026

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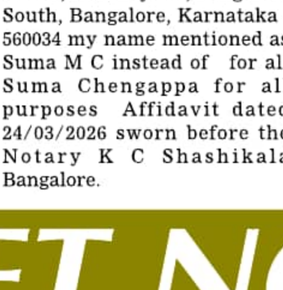

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CHANGE OF NAME

I,SUMA Chengappa , W/o Chengappa M P , R/o No.816, 23rd Cross, 8th 'A' Main . 7th Sector, HSR Layout , Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560034 my name mentioned as Suma M C instead of for all Suma Chengappa for all purposes Affidavit dated 24/03/2026 sworn before the Notary K C Shashikala Bangalore.

I, Abdul Majid Ahmedullah Khan # 35 2nd Cross M M Layout Blr-32 have changed my name to Abdul Majid Khan for all purposes.

I, PADMAVATHI CHANDRASEKARAN Residing at No. 304/ A Block, SLS Splendor Apts,M- Sarjapur Orr, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur, Bengaluru, Karnataka Pin-560103 have changed my name to PADMAVATHI CHANDRASEKAR vide affidavit dated: 25/3/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, MOHMAMADPHA HUSSAIN, R/a.111/3, Parjatha Nilaya, Hanumajayanthi Rd, 4th Cross Anjananagara, Bengaluru-91, I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED HUSSAIN SHERIFF, Vide affidavit, dated 24/03/2026 Sworn before Notary: S.Samuel Solomon. Bangalore

I, KARAN ACHARYA Residing at No. 215, 4th D Cross Rd, HRBR Layout 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560043 have changed my name to KARAN R ACHARYA vide affidavit dated: 25/3/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, ANITA JANET R (Old Name) W/o Aftab Ahmed, Residing at No. 460, 2nd Cross 3rd Main B M Layout Venkateshpuram Bengaluru – 560045 have changed my name to AMEENA BEGUM, (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 24/3/2026 Before Notary R.BASAVARAJA Bangalore

I, Pandian Muniyadi Achari R/o 2267, 2nd cross, Kumara swamy Lyt, 2nd stage, Yelachenahalli, JP nagar, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to PANDIAN. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I Madhav Arvind Pai Tonse S/O, Tonse Arvind Pai R/o 5143 Prestige South Ridge,hosakerehalli,125 3rd Stage Bsk,bangalore 560085 have changed my name to Tonse Madhav Pai.

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 # Lord of the Rings, by Colbert — Stephen Colbert, famous devotee to JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth, is co-writing a "Lord of the Rings" movie with his son

Love Mocktail 3 faces plagiarism charge

Allegations of plagiarism have dampened the joy of success for the team of Love Mocktail 3. Darling Krishna announced on Wednesday that he is contemplating legal action against those defaming him. "I announced the plan to make Love Mocktail 3 in March 2023. My wife Milana Nagaraj and I have worked for four years on the script. It is true that director Guru Deshpande and writer Raghavendra M Naik met me on August 31, 2023 to narrate a script to me. I told them that their script is good. I also told them that I have already worked on the script for my movie Love Mocktail 3. Their script was based on a real incident that took place in Lucknow during 2010. My script is a continuation of the Love Mocktail 2," said Darling Krishna.

Krishna said that the script written by Raghavendra M Naik is about a Hindu male parent adopting a Muslim child. "The climax of Love Mocktail 2 is about the protagonist adopting a girl from an orphanage and Love Mocktail 3 is about how her grandmother wants to raise the child and how the court takes a decision on the issue. I never expected Guru Deshpande, who claims to be my best friend, to make allegations against me," said Krishna.

Naik told BM that the post-intermission session is a copy of his script. "We narrated the script to Darling Krishna. He appreciated the script and told us that he has also worked on a similar subject but did not reveal anything about the post-intermission, especially the court scene," said Naik.

Director Guru Deshpande said he would speak to the press about how the script written by Naik was lifted by Darling Krishna. "I have also directed successful movies including Rajahuli," said Deshpande.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Evolution of an actor

Aamir Khan on his illustrious career

Aamir Khan is often called "the perfectionist" because of his choice of roles and the dedication he puts into every film. The actor recently opened up about his journey at the International Film Festival of Melbourne, where he revisited several of his films and shared lesser-known anecdotes from his career.

Discussing how his approach to filmmaking evolved, Aamir said that after Lagaan he began working on one film at a time, though earlier producers and directors were not ready for that method. He explained that he judges his performances based on the character he imagines in his mind and whether he has been able to present that vision consistently to the audience.

Reflecting on his role in Raja Hindustani, he admitted the character had flaws but felt satisfied with his performance, saying it remained consistent throughout. He also spoke about enjoying his role in Secret Superstar, noting that in real life he is very disciplined because of his upbringing, but the film allowed him to behave differently on screen, which he found fun.

Talking about Talaash, which co-starred Rani Mukerji and Kareena Kapoor Khan, Aamir said the film received a good response but could have done better. He felt the makers made a mistake in marketing it purely as a thriller, whereas it should have been promoted as a supernatural thriller so that audiences were prepared for the climax. According to him, the film was well shot with strong performances, but incorrect marketing limited its reach.

During the session, an audience member mentioned Delhi Belly, prompting Aamir to share a humorous story about how he became involved in the project. He recalled that he and Kiran Rao were at home when she picked up an unread script from his desk and began laughing uncontrollably while reading it. Curious, he read it too and loved it. Later, they discovered the script had been left in his study by two filmmakers who had been trying unsuccessfully to meet him. He called them back to Mumbai, and that chance moment eventually led to the film being made. **—ETimes**

Anjali fires back boldly

Anjali Anand is one of those celebrities who have always embraced themselves just as they are. The actress has repeatedly emphasised that she is unapologetically authentic. So when an internet user mocked her appearance by calling her "fat," she confronted him directly and firmly opposed body-shaming.

In a recent Instagram post, a man rejected the term "curvy" and labeled her "fat" instead. Rather than brushing off the rude remark, Anjali hit back directly. She fired off a witty, pointed reply: "I know I am fat. Same way you know you are bald." The actress further continued, "Mote ko mota bolte hai, takle ko takla. Aap samajh gaye ki aur samjhaun? Mujhe pata hai main moti, jaise aap ko pata hai aap takle ho (They call a fat person fat, and a bald person bald. You understand that, or should I explain more? I know that I'm fat, just like you know that you're bald)." She posted a screenshot of the exchange on her stories, captioning it, "They also call me UNF–KWITHABLE. Stay away!".

Anjali, daughter of late actor Dinesh Anand, started her career with the 2017 web show 'Untag'. She got noticed on TV in 'Dhhai Kilo Prem' (2017) and 'Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala' (2018) series roles.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Rajavardan goes Pan-Asia

The new generation of filmmakers in Sandalwood is aiming high with ambitious projects. With a long-term vision to create world-class cinema, these makers are putting in years of rigorous preparation. Following this trend, a new production team, backed by a powerhouse of creative technicians, has come forward to produce a Pan-Asia movie. Rajavardan, known for Kannada movies Bicchugatti, Hiranya, Pranayam, and Gajarama, has been roped in to play the lead role in this yet-to-be-titled movie. Rajavardan, the son of veteran actor Dingri Nagaraj, has starred in four films as a lead so far, each being a unique and distinct attempt. His experience in these regional experiments, combined with a quest for a larger cinematic canvas, has led to this Pan-Asia endeavour.

It is said the film's muhurat function was held at an ancient and powerful Ganesha temple.

The team has been working on the pre-production of this Pan-Asia film for the past five years. As the preparations reach their final stages, the title and full details of the cast and crew will be revealed soon. "Every film I've done has taught me a lesson in its own way. Last year, working as the Creative Head and producer for the film Kamal Sridevi gave me deep insights into the dos and don'ts of the industry and business knowledge," he said.

Family drama

Actor-cum-director Aryan Tejas will release his latest movie Naanu Karunakara on April 3. Aryan Tejas, besides handling the megaphone, has played the lead role. Earlier, he directed the Kannada movie Park Road 100 Rupaayi, an education-centric film. Naanu Karunakara is about the bonding between a father and son.

The audio and trailer were unveiled Monday at MMB Legacy. "The movie revolves around a middle-class family. It will connect with family audiences. Every father and son should watch this movie to know the value of paternal bonding. I played an assistant director from a middle-class family who struggles to look after his wife and son," said Aryan Tejas. He

wrote the script much before the Covid-19 lockdown. The project began after he narrated it to his friend Naman Narayan, who supported the film with his friend Vaibhav Suresh. The movie is made under Popcorn Cinema Productions. Radha Bhagavathi, known for Bhargavi LLB, is paired with Aryan Tejas, while Master Bhaveesh plays the son. "It is my fifth Kannada film. During shooting, I felt nostalgic about my childhood. The script is very good," said Radha Bhagavathi.

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@BangaloreMirror

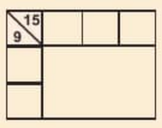
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$(1/81)^{-(1/2)} = 3^x$

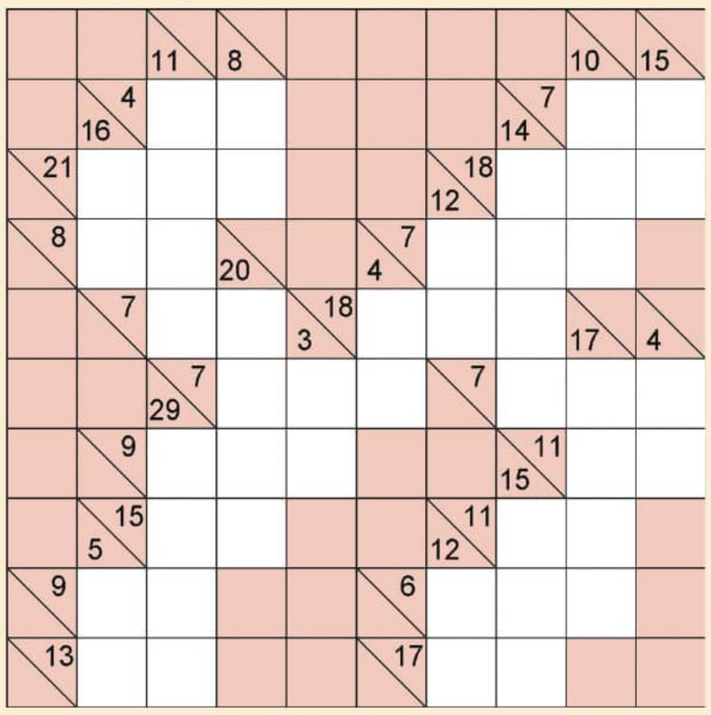
$x = ?$

Kakuro

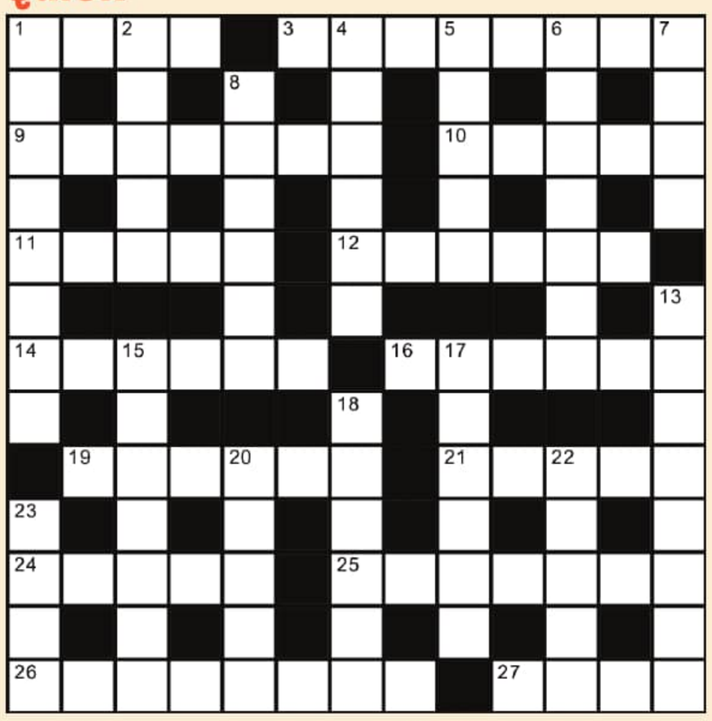
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 You will find the remnants of his fort in the City Market area (4)
3 Adequate (8)
9 Narrate or tell; describe (7)
10 Topmost room (5)
11 Dump (5)
12 Angora wool (6)
14 Move unsteadily (6)
16 Mark of infamy (6)
19 Flat-bottomed rowboat (6)
21 Waxy solid derived from coconut flesh (5)
24 Wraith (5)
25 Links coach (4,3)
26 Divine inspiration (8)
27 On the briny (4)

DOWN

1 Say no to, decline the offer of (4,4)
2 Looped ornamental edging (5)
4 The Fall? (6)
5 Cut dramatically (5)
6 Standing under a shower, perhaps? (7)
7 Engrave (4)
8 Dry measure of eight gallons (6)
13 Amorously inclined male (8)
15 Drive back an attack, etc. (4,3)
17 Provoke laughter (6)
18 Martial art (4,2)
20 Spare or added (5)
22 Fathers (5)
23 Taj Mahal locale (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS S

E UVPPGUURVS XEDDKEFG KU EC GNKRK.PG MYEM XVUM HG DGHVKSM GQGDA NEA.

Linemaro

Were you born in 1789? Because you're a real classical beauty

Mindchow

Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your life is burning well, poetry is just the ash

Joke of the day

What's Harry Potter's way to get to the bottom of a hill? Running... JK! Rolling

Loop

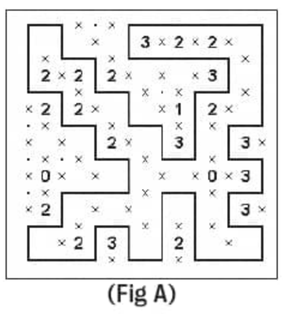
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

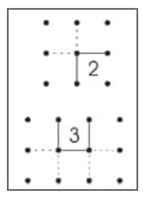
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

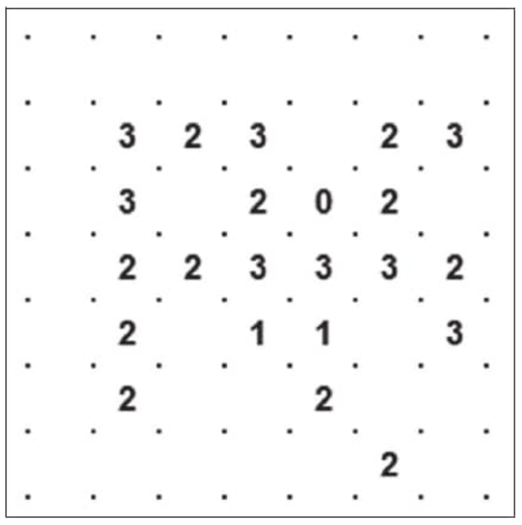
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



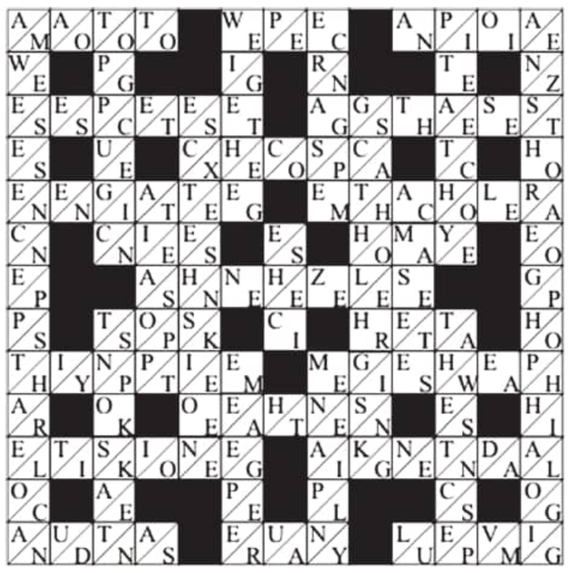
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



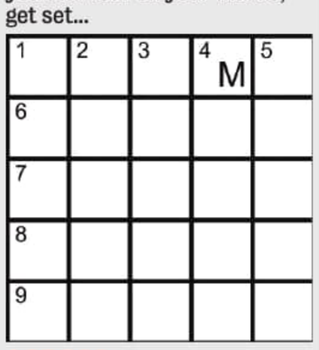
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

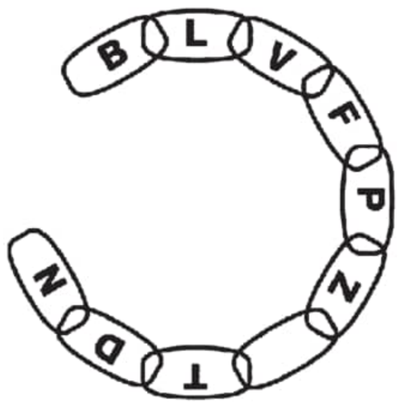
1 Agism; 6 Me ere; 7 Tim's T; 8 I rune; 9 Poesy

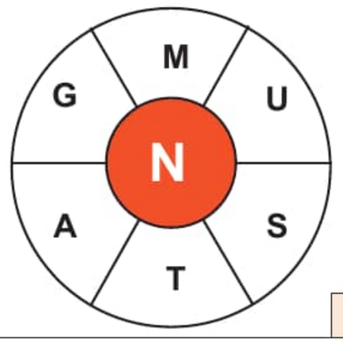
DOWN

1 Seism; 2 Mien I; 3 Up Get; 4 Me ort; 5 Years

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the missing letter to complete the chain.





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4				9				8
	2						7	
	9	1	4		8	5	3	
1		5				2		7
			8		5			
2		8				6		9
	8	4	2		9	7	1	
	1						2	
6				3				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

3 8 5 3

Medium = 5

2 2 5 1

Hard = 2

4 4 7 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

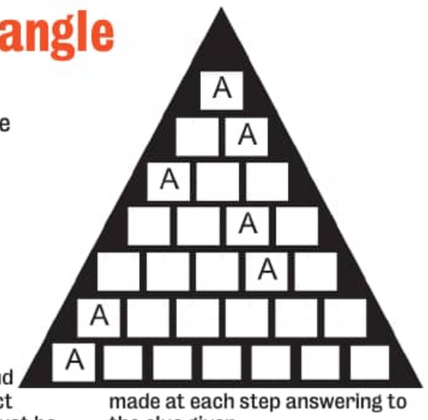
Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Putter is moved. 3. Branch is moved. 4. Golf glove is added. 5. Nose is different. 6. Cloud is larger.

Riddler

In a sylasearch I give you a syllable-starter, which is the first syllable in the words you are to find. I will also give you a listing of the other syllables (in which each may only be used once) which you must use to figure out the 9 words. Syllable List–a, a, a, al, don, en, graph, ic, ka, keet, lel, ly, med, ses, the, tial, ty Syllable-starter: par How many syllables, each word has: 1. (2), 2. (2), 3. (2), 4. (3), 5. (3), 6. (3), 7. (3), 8. (4), 9. (4)

Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 Radium symbol
3 Part of verb to be
4 Letter opener?
5 Great fear
6 Much loved
7 Decorated



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

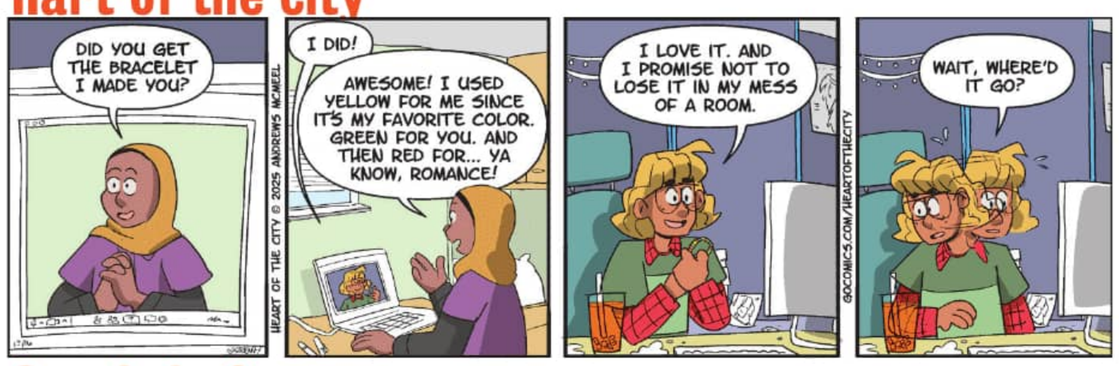
COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


DID YOU GET THE BRACELET I MADE YOU?
I DID!
AWESOME! I USED YELLOW FOR ME SINCE IT'S MY FAVORITE COLOR. GREEN FOR YOU. AND THEN RED FOR... YA KNOW, ROMANCE!
I LOVE IT. AND I PROMISE NOT TO LOSE IT IN MY MESS OF A ROOM.
WAIT, WHERE'D IT GO?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

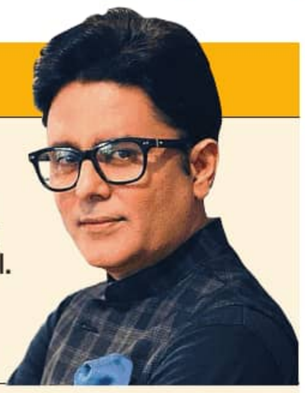
Crankshaft

YOU WERE A GREAT SUBSTITUTE SANTA, AND HERE'S A TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
AND PIZZA ON EARTH!
VISIT SANTA TODAY
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
12-13

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Grounded energy supports you. Love feels stable and sincere. Career efforts are recognized through reliability. Financial confidence grows with consistent habits. Travel unfolds smoothly with planning. Home feels orderly and peaceful. You're reminded that structure doesn't limit freedom; it creates the space needed for comfort, security, and long-term satisfaction.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Opportunities arise soon to stand out, but choose targets carefully. Attractive offers aren't always right. Discernment now ensures efforts align with your true priorities and long-term satisfaction.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Life follows natural rhythms you cannot override. Accept your path, cooperate with circumstances, and stop resisting change. Progress flows more easily when you trust direction instead of fighting it.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Life feels lighter because you're less attached to outcomes. Living in the present doesn't cancel ambition; it simply frees you from pressure while success unfolds organically.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Advancement opportunities appear shortly, but patience matters. Don't accept the first proposal. Better offers follow, and waiting ensures you choose growth that truly elevates your position.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Expand perspective and train your mind toward optimism. Meaning exists in every experience. Repeating this truth reshapes outlook, helping positivity replace doubt through belief and consistent practice.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Emotions intensify today, so filter speech carefully. Even deserved mockery invites conflict. Restraint preserves peace and prevents unnecessary feuds that drain energy and distract from priorities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
New attractions may spark quickly but fade just as fast. Stay emotionally grounded and avoid deep attachment too soon, remembering not every connection is meant to last.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Practical focus strengthens now. Handle details efficiently and support foundations behind bigger goals. Avoid chasing others' unrealistic visions and concentrate on tasks that actually deliver results.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Creative momentum surges, yet personal relationships still need care. Balance inspiration with presence, giving friends and family attention they deserve without losing yourself in ambition.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Domestic harmony improves through understanding. Stop forcing loved ones into your preferences and respect differences. Compassion and flexibility ease tension far more effectively than control.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Life accelerates rapidly, bringing excitement and momentum. Amid busy work schedules, protect time for friendships; shared joy amplifies success and keeps experiences meaningful.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Delay long-term financial decisions briefly. Clarity improves with time, revealing which efforts truly balance enjoyment and reward. Patience now prevents misaligned commitments later.

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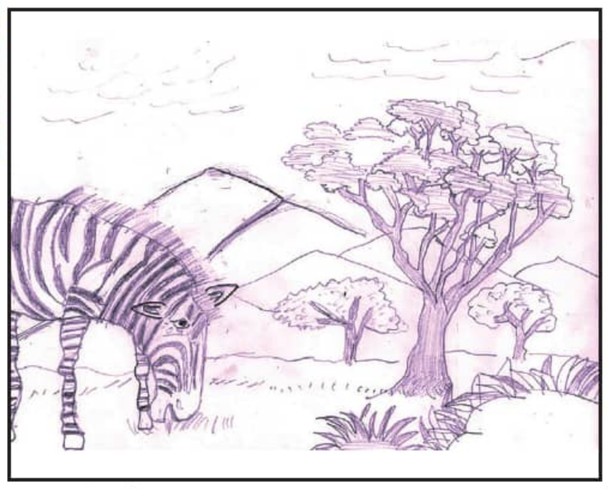
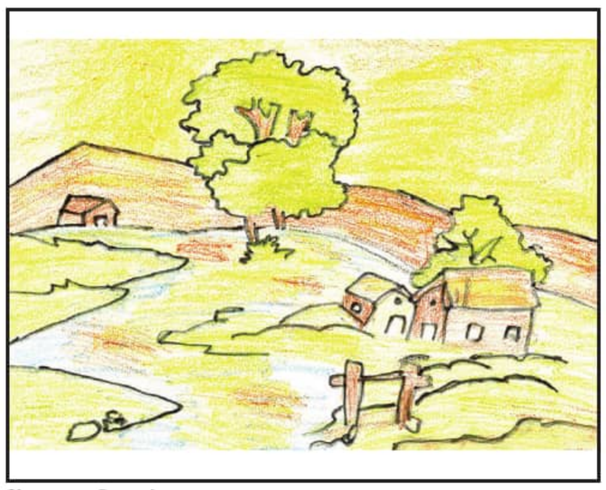
KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru



Charanya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 1. Parka (par ka), 2. Pardon (par don), 3. Party (par ty), 4. Paragraph (par a graph), 5. Parallel (par al lel), 6. Parakeet (par a keet), 7. Partially (par tial ly), 8. Parentheses (par en the ses) 9. Paramedic (par a med ic)

SOLVE IN 1M
$81^{(1/2)} = 3^x$
$9 = 3^x \times 3^2 = 3^x$
$x = 2$

FAST FIVE

S	I	G	M	A
E	M	E	E	R
M	I	T	T	S
I	N	U	R	E
S	E	P	O	Y

STRIKE OUT

M	O	O	T		W	E	E		A	P	I	A		
E	P		I		R		E		N					
S	E	P	T	E	T		A	G	H	A	S	T		
E		U		X	H	O	S	A		C		H		
N	E	G	A	T	E		E	T	C	H	E	R		
C		N		E		S		H	A	Y		O		
E		S		S	N	E	Z	E	S			P		
H	I		P	P	I	E		M	I	S	H	A	P	
A		O		O	A	T	E	N		E		H		
L	I	K	I	N	G		A	G	E	N	D	A		
O		E		E		L		C				G		
N	U	N	S		R	A	Y		L	E	V	I		

QUICK

T	I	P	U		P	A	S	S	A	B	L	E		
U		I		B		U		L		A		T		
R	E	C	O	U	N	T		A	T	T	I	C		
N		O		S		U		S		H		H		
D	I	T	C	H		M	O	H	A	I	R			
C				E				N		N		C		
W	O	B	B	L	E		S	T	I	G	M	A		
N		E			K			I				S		
B	A	T	E	A	U		C	O	P	H	A			
A		T		X		N		K		A		N		
G	H	O	S	T		G	O	L	F	P	R	O		
R		F		R		F		E		A		V		
A	F	F	L	A	T	U	S		A	S	E	A		

MENSA PUZZLE
Letters move clockwise in steps of 10.

QUOTE UNCODE
A successful marriage is an edifice that must be rebuilt every day.

BULL'S EYE
angst, anus, aunt, gaunt, gnat, gnus, tuna, MUSTANG, sang, snag, snug, stun, stung, sung,

SUDOKU

6	7	2	1	3	4	8	9	5
5	1	9	6	8	7	4	2	3
3	8	4	2	5	9	7	1	6
2	4	8	3	7	1	6	5	9
9	6	7	8	2	5	3	4	1
1	3	5	9	4	6	2	8	7
7	9	1	4	6	8	5	3	2
8	2	6	5	1	3	9	7	4
4	5	3	7	9	2	1	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Ra, Are, Dear, Dread, Adored, Adorned.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 8 – 5 + 3 = 9
Medium
5 + 2 x 1 – 2 = 5
Hard
4 x 9 / 4 – 7 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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2 EMIs Free*

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MRP	₹42,300*
Selling Price	₹29,490*
2 EMIs Free Worth	₹4,915*
Sale Price (After reducing free EMI)	**₹24,575***

Additional Exchange Benefits Available at Store

Blue Star 1.5 Ton Inverter AC

MRP	₹60,500*
Selling Price	₹39,990*
2 EMIs Free Worth	₹6,665*
Sale Price (After reducing free EMI)	**₹33,325***

Additional Exchange Benefits Available at Store

25% OFF

Samsung 236L Refrigerator

MRP	₹32,999*
Selling Price	₹27,790*
Cashback Up to	₹2,000*
Exchange Value Up to	₹1,000*
Sale Price	₹24,790*

40% OFF

Samsung QLED 4K TV 1m 40 cm (55)

MRP	₹86,100*
Cashback Up to	₹5,000*
EMI Starting	₹2,990*

Save 10% on Samsung Soundbar with TV purchase*

41% OFF

iPhone 17 (256GB)

MRP	₹82,900*
Savings Up to	₹1,658*
Cashback Up to	₹1,000*
Exchange Value & Bonus Up to	₹31,500*
Sale Price	**₹48,742***

51% OFF

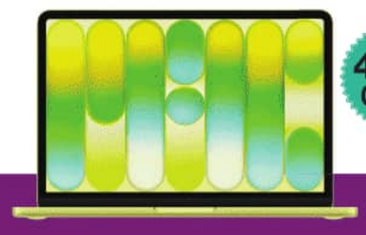
Samsung S26 Ultra (256GB)

MRP	₹1,39,999*
Exchange Value Up to	₹63,000*
Cashback Up to	₹9,000*
Sale Price	**₹67,999***
EMI Starting	₹5,833*

35% OFF

LG 7.5Kg Washing Machine

MRP	₹27,490*
Selling Price	₹19,465*
Exchange Value Up to	₹500*
Cashback Up to	₹973*
Sale Price	**₹17,992***



45% OFF

MacBook Neo

MRP	₹69,900*
Students & Teacher Offer#	₹4,194*
Cashback Up to	₹4,000*
Exchange Value & Bonus Up to	₹23,000*
Sale Price	**₹38,706***

*Sale Price inclusive of exchange/cashback or both

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*Offer valid only at stores | Two offers cannot be clubbed | Offer valid till stocks lasts | Offer valid on select brands/categories/days/locations/products | The final offer shall be subject to cashback offers or discounts provided by participating banks or consumer finance or Croma or Brand or Exchange Value of your old product or all of the above, as applicable | Up to ₹12,500 Instant Cashback is based on invoice/bill value | In addition, select products may be eligible for exchange bonus as well | Samsung S26 Ultra final price includes cashback & exchange value of old device (exchange value of N-1 Model) | iPhone 17 final price includes exchange value (Considering iPhone 15 Plus) & with brand cashback | #Savings on MacBook applicable for Students & Teachers | MacBook Neo final price includes exchange value (Considering Macbook Air) & with brand cashback | Processing fee shall be applicable as levied by participating banks and consumer finance | bigbasket exclusive delivery offer valid across Bangalore only | MRP is inclusive of all taxes | The prices mentioned are for one unit of the product | EMIs are payable monthly and may vary by product, tenure, and customer eligibility | 2 EMIs Free offer applicable for eligible IDFC paper finance customers only | Out of 2 EMIs one will be credited to customer bank account directly after the first EMI is paid by the customer without delay/bounce. Another EMI value will be credited to customer's IDFC wallet | Both EMIs shall be credited within 45 to 60 days of the transaction | For further details, visit store | T&C apply